



Highlights of the 29th Annual Meeting 1953

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COMMITTEE PROGRAM
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The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

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SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL,
REGINA, SASK.

Highlights of the 29th Annual Meeting, 1953

This Committee Program mentions very briefly some of the most outstanding points of the 29th Annual Meeting of Delegates, which was held in Regina November 3rd to 14th.

As a result of the reorganization completed last year the various subsidiary companies are now being operated by Divisions of the parent Company.

These divisions are as follows: (a) Country Elevator, (b) Terminal, (c) Flour Mill, (d) Vegetable Oil, (e) Livestock, (f) Printing and Publishing.

Country Elevator Many records were broken in the crop year just closed. Gross handling of all grains reached a new high at 214,452,000 bushels, compared to last year's total figure of 179,623,000 bushels. Net earnings for this division were \$5,610,309.52 compared to \$4,359,282.32 a year ago. This works out to 2.62 cents per bushel this year and 2.43 cents last season. The percentage handled was up to 46.01% as against 45.41% in 1951-52. Average handling per elevator was 184,912 bushels and 154,580 in 1951-52.

During June and July over 57 million bushels were delivered to Pool Country Elevators, leaving 56 million in store at the end of the crop year. Deliveries continued to maintain the stocks in store at or above 50 million right up to the present. Total deliveries to all elevators in Saskatchewan were 465,412,000 bushels which on the basis of seeded acreage was 20 bushels per acre against 18½ bushels per acre in Manitoba and 21½ bushels per acre in Alberta.

Malting barley premiums were secured on 4,263,000 bushels compared to 1,717,000 a year ago.

During the year three elevators were destroyed by fire and four others were slightly damaged. Pool Insurance Company carries 25% of the risk on country elevators and stocks of grain in them. The balance of risk is carried by Canadian and British companies on a reinsurance basis.

Expenditure for repairs on elevators amounted to \$1,064,272.00. Our construction program provided for twenty-six elevators and eighty annexes. When this program is

completed, the Pool will have 74 million bushels country storage space.

Twelve additional cottages were provided, nine by purchase and three were constructed by our building crews. A total of \$214,000 was spent on cottages, covering capital, repairs, painting, etc.

Terminal Elevator Division

Handling at our Terminal Elevators amounted to 114,304,101 bushels compared to 113,711,293 in the previous season, producing a net operating revenue of \$1,253,292.50 against \$2,332,260.43 last season. It is estimated that, but for the explosion at Terminal No. 4, our handling would have been at least 25,000,000 bushels greater. The net earning per bushel at our Terminals this year was 1.10 cents compared to 2.19 cents last year. This difference per bushel can be accounted for by the explosion at No. 4, higher wages and salaries, lower prices for screenings and less earnings from drying operation, etc.

Pool Terminals had in store at July 31st, 11,582,320 bushels, which was 22% of the total grain in store at the Lake Head.

During the season, 577,414 bushels of damp and tough grain were dried compared to 10,342,329 bushels in 1951-52. Terminal No. 7 handled a total of 65,713,082 bushels which is approximately 15,000,000 more than in the previous season.

Flour Mill Division

Total sales of flour for the year under review, was 583,427 barrels compared to 349,040 barrels the previous year. The financial result shows a net surplus of \$42,710.37. The installation of new machinery was completed during October 1952 bringing the production up to 2,000 barrels per day. The mill operated a total of 323 days during the year. The domestic sales have strengthened and export sales held firm through the year. Storage capacity at the mill is 500,000 bushels.

Vegetable Oil Division

This Division improved its operating position considerably, this year due to the fact that it was possible to keep the plant in operation for a longer time, working on a contract to crush rape seed. Sales of linseed, oil to the domestic market increased to 2,080,982 pounds and export sales jumped to 1,148,320 pounds as against 60,000 pounds a year ago. A 60,000 bushel standard country

elevator is being built at the Vegetable Oil Plant.

Livestock Division The Livestock Division shows a net operating surplus for the year of \$78,964.23

The Company owns and operates the livestock yards at Regina, North Battleford, Swift Current and Yorkton, and three livestock selling agencies at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. The three Pools are joint owners of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited, St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Total handlings amounted to 42.47% of the cattle and 32.87% of the hogs marketed in Saskatchewan. The percentage of livestock marketed in public or co-operative yards through co-operative agencies materially strengthens market price structures. The strength of market prices depends on the extent to which Packers and other buyers must enter public markets to obtain their supplies.

The disruption of the livestock industry in Canada during the Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic was very far reaching. Support prices were removed in February 1953. Since then decline and fluctuations in both beef and pork prices have been very disturbing to livestock producers.

It is clear that marketing methods must be improved to give more stability to the livestock industry in the interest of both producer and consumer. The delegates discussed many phases of this problem and passed resolutions having to do with price support and livestock marketing methods.

Printing and Publishing Division The Job Printing Department produced a surplus for the year, however, the cost of publishing the Western Producer is substantial. The combined operation of the division resulted in a net deficit of \$27,654.81.

Having in mind the great value of the paper, this may be considered highly satisfactory and a marked improvement over last year.

The net paid circulation at July 31st 154,762, an increase of 8,654.

New features added to the Western Producer include a page "Behind the Speaker's Chair", and a service entitled "Farmers and the Law". The magazine and women's section, the youth section and Pool notes are popular features of the paper.

The Western Producer has rendered distinguished service to agriculture and continues to be the champion of the farmer.

Junior Activities Probably the most important phase of grain research in Saskatchewan is the constant development of new and improved varieties. Changes are taking place each year as new varieties replace older ones. The extent of this change is illustrated by the fact that of the eighteen varieties recommended by the Saskatchewan Cereal Variety Committee for use in 1938, only four were still recommended for 1953; of those eighteen recommended ten years ago, only six were still recommended.

For the past nineteen years, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool has taken an active part in the important work of testing new varieties under field conditions throughout the Province. Each year more than 300 individual tests have been carried out by boys and girls who have faithfully co-operated in this important work. These tests covered a wide area, and the results show how varieties stand up under all conditions of climate and soil. Wheat Pool test plots are distributed in many areas where no other experimental work is done.

4H Clubs As in former years, support of the 4H Club movement under the direction of the Extension Department of the University of Saskatchewan, continued to be an important project and received widespread support from Pool Delegates and members of the staff. During the year there were 177 Grain Clubs, 177 Beef, 12 Dairy, 8 Poultry, 11 Swine, 12 Tractors and 16 Garden Clubs, with a total of 6,398 members.

Country Organization At July 31, 1953 there were 1,128 Wheat Pool Committees functioning in the Province, and of these, 1,083 were elected during the year. Active Wheat Pool Committees have been and will continue to be a vital part of the Pool Organization.

Committee Conventions Late seeding, wet weather, and almost impassable roads created many problems in organizing and carrying through the annual program of Committee Conventions. 123 Committee Conventions were held as against 128 last year.

The work of each committee, as reported by the Secretary, and the discussion of committee work in the sub-district, led by the Wheat Pool Delegate were the key items on the agenda. Discussion groups and discussion panels were used to advantage resulting in more active participation by those in attendance.

Each Convention gave some time to Junior Co-operative Activities, Test Plots, Co-operative Schools, and other educational programs.

Whenever possible, agents of Saskatchewan Pool Elevators attended the Conventions. They made a valuable contribution when handling problems were discussed. A total of 755 agents were in attendance.

Travelling Superintendents led discussions and answered many questions in connection with elevator business.

Co-operative Livestock Shippers gave information and reported on the year's operation of the Livestock Division.

The Director, in his report to the Convention, dealt with the operating policy of the organization in all departments. He outlined the position of the International Wheat Agreement and the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board. Both the International Wheat Agreement and the Wheat Board were strongly endorsed.

Committee Programs Seven Wheat Pool Committee Programs were issued during the year by the Country Organization Department, and were mailed to all members of each committee, to Wheat Pool Delegates, Pool Elevator Agents, Travelling Superintendents, and other country workers who might be interested.

The following is the list of titles: (1) Wheat Pool Elections, (2) Highlights of the 28th Annual Report, (3) Resolutions passed at the 28th Annual Meeting of Wheat Pool Delegates, (4) Change of Address, (5) Beyond the End Gate, (6) Highlights of the Wheat Board Report, (7) Highlights of the Committee Conventions—1953.

Visual Aids Out of the 2820 meetings attended during the year by Fieldmen, sound motion pictures were shown at 877, an increase of 154 over the same period last year. During the year we purchased 114 films. Our film library contains a

fairly well-balanced range of films on co-operation, agriculture (including soil and water conservation), travelogues, news reels and comics. Our own film "The Farmers' Flour Mill" has been widely shown to an estimated total of about 80,000 people.

This year the National Film Board production "Western Wheat" has been used extensively by the Fieldmen. This story of wheat production tells of the magnitude of the wheat industry in Western agriculture.

Picture show meetings are an effective means of securing better attendance. By using these well selected films, information on Pool activities is presented to thousands of people who would not attend an ordinary meeting.

Films which have served their purpose on our program, and have no re-sale value, have been presented to local film councils and to the Saskatchewan Film Board for use in school programs.

Handbook No. 4 Delegates, committees and other Wheat Pool workers have asked on numerous occasions for information about the Wheat Pool Organization, compiled in concise and factual form which they could use in their work. Handbook No. 4 was written and designed to provide this information. It was issued during the year under review, and copies were sent to all committee members, Wheat Pool Delegates, Pool Elevator Agents, Travelling Superintendents, and others.

The Handbook contains an outline of the Wheat Pool organization under the following headings: (1) Ownership and Control, (2) Membership, (3) Duties and responsibilities of Delegates and Directors, (4) Duties and responsibilities of Wheat Pool Committees, (5) Management and Function of Operating Divisions, (6) Duties and Responsibilities of Fieldmen.

Meetings During the year under review, Wheat Pool Fieldmen attended 2,820 meetings of all types, with an estimated attendance of 138,528. In all cases, current information in connection with the organization was given by the speaker, marketing problems were explained and the policy of the Wheat Pool was outlined.

In addition to the foregoing, there were personal visits by fieldmen to 7,008 farmers, 2,891 business men were interviewed, and there were 4,548 visits to Pool elevators.

Co-operative Education

The program of one-day Co-operative Schools, Citizenship Days and Rallies was continued during the year. Valuable assistance in this program was received from the University of Saskatchewan, the Department of Co-operation, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and the Co-operative Union of Saskatchewan. Fifty of these events were held during the year, with an attendance of 2,422.

Six regional Co-operative Schools were operated during the week of July 6th to 11th, with a combined attendance of 340 students. Of these, 189 were boys and 151 were girls. The average age was seventeen years, and the average education was Grade X.

These schools are developing a high degree of efficiency, and are the outstanding feature of the entire program of education carried on by the Co-operative movement in Saskatchewan. Wheat Pool Fieldmen continue to play a leading role in promoting, organizing and operating these schools.

Conclusion

Organized marketing, as the sole guarantee of stabilized prices, is under heavy attack. On the other hand, the costs of farm production push persistently upward. Mechanization, transport, storage and many other items threaten to impose higher and higher costs for the future.

At the same time, other components of our Canadian economy are expanding more rapidly than agriculture. Industry, labor and commerce secure an increasing percentage of the national income, and exert power to achieve measures of protection unknown to agriculture. The "take home pay" of farmers represents a shrinking share of the nation's income. Canadians engaged in agriculture in 1952 represented 19% of Canada's labor force. But—farm families secured only 12% of the national income in 1951, and a bare 10% in 1952. (From 29th Annual Report.)

This situation challenges each Pool member and their co-operative organizations to build continuously to provide fullest service at cost to the biggest possible membership and also to provide the most effective instrument through which Western farm people shall speak with united voice in the councils of the nation, to secure and maintain for our farm families a fair share of the wealth they produce.